

# Technical Steering Groups



Balancing autonomy, technical alignment and speed  
through strategic collaboration

Elín Elísabet Torfadóttir







# Spotify

678 million users / 268 million subscribers in > 180 markets

100 million songs / 7 million podcast titles / 350.000 audiobooks





Mission -> Studio -> Product Area -> Squad

2700+ engineers

Stockholm & NY  
and London!



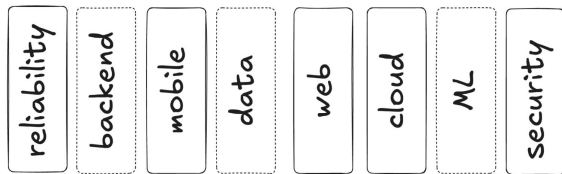
Aligned Autonomy -> Focused Alignment





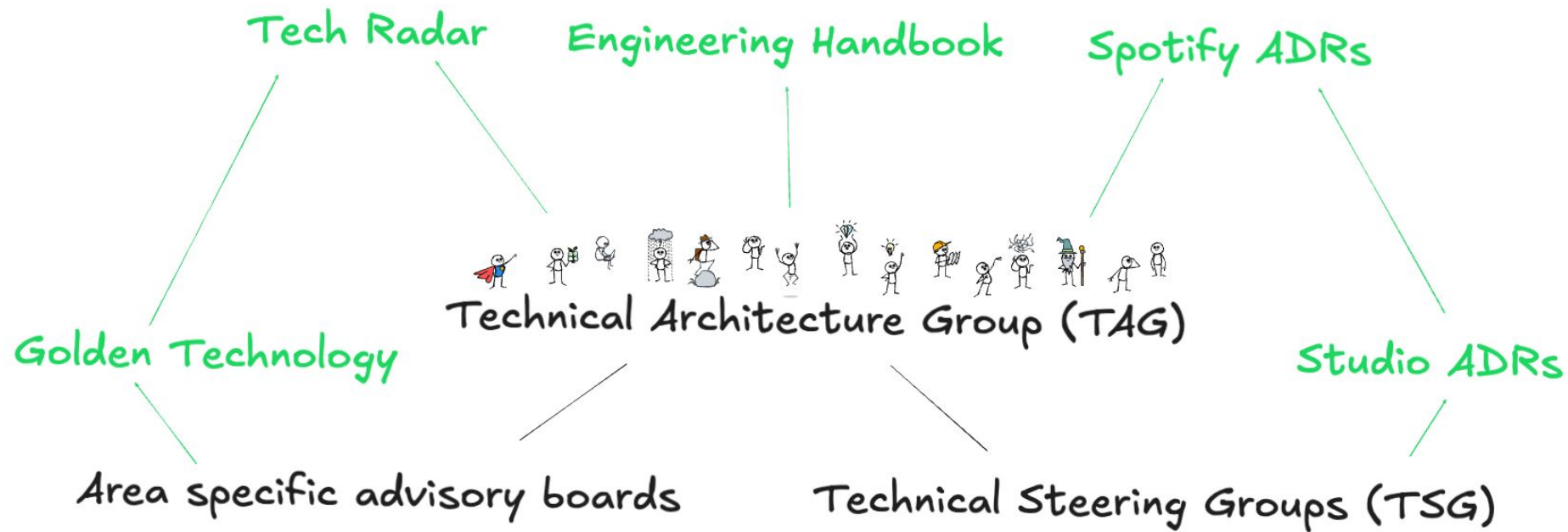
# Technical Architecture Group (TAG)

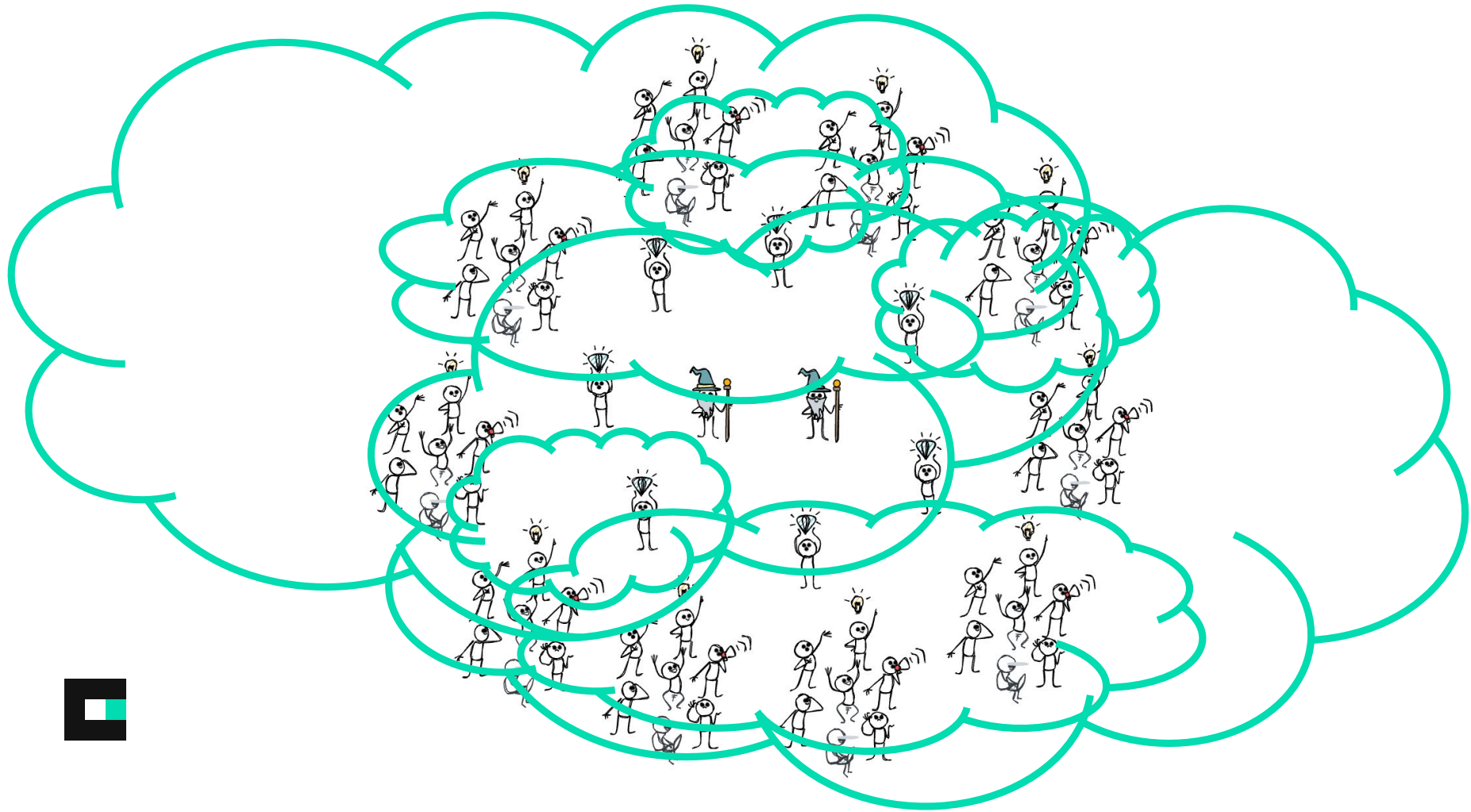
Area specific advisory boards



Technical Steering Groups (TSG)





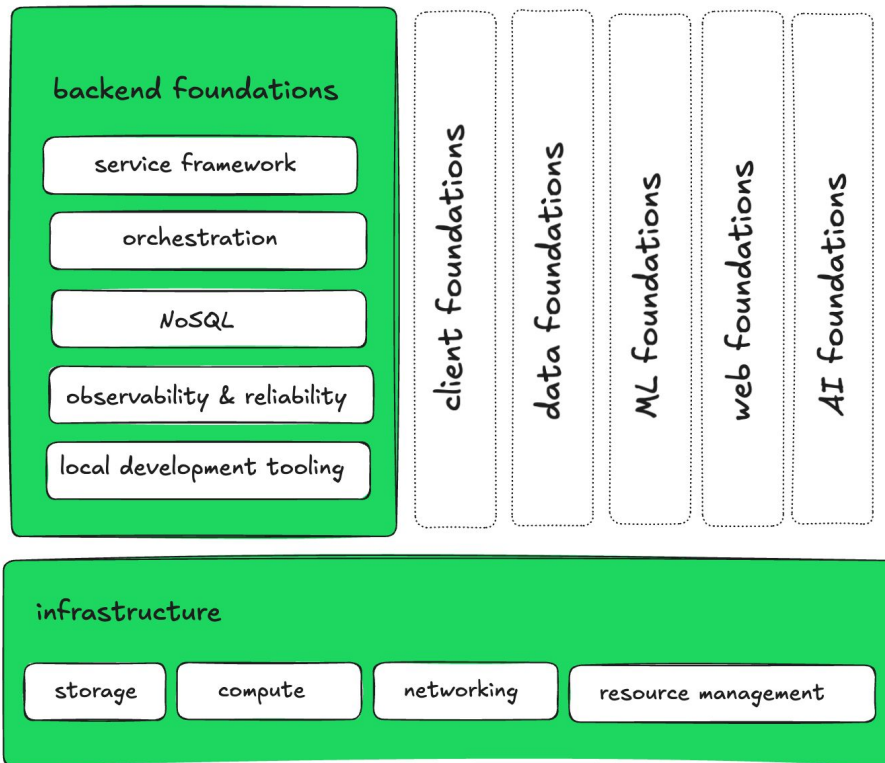




>1.6 trillion events/day  
>3600 microservices in production  
>4100 production deployments/day  
>1.5 million kubernetes pods  
>10M requests/second daily peak traffic



## core infrastructure



# Developer Experience

## Contracts

## Reliability



MAY 9, 2025

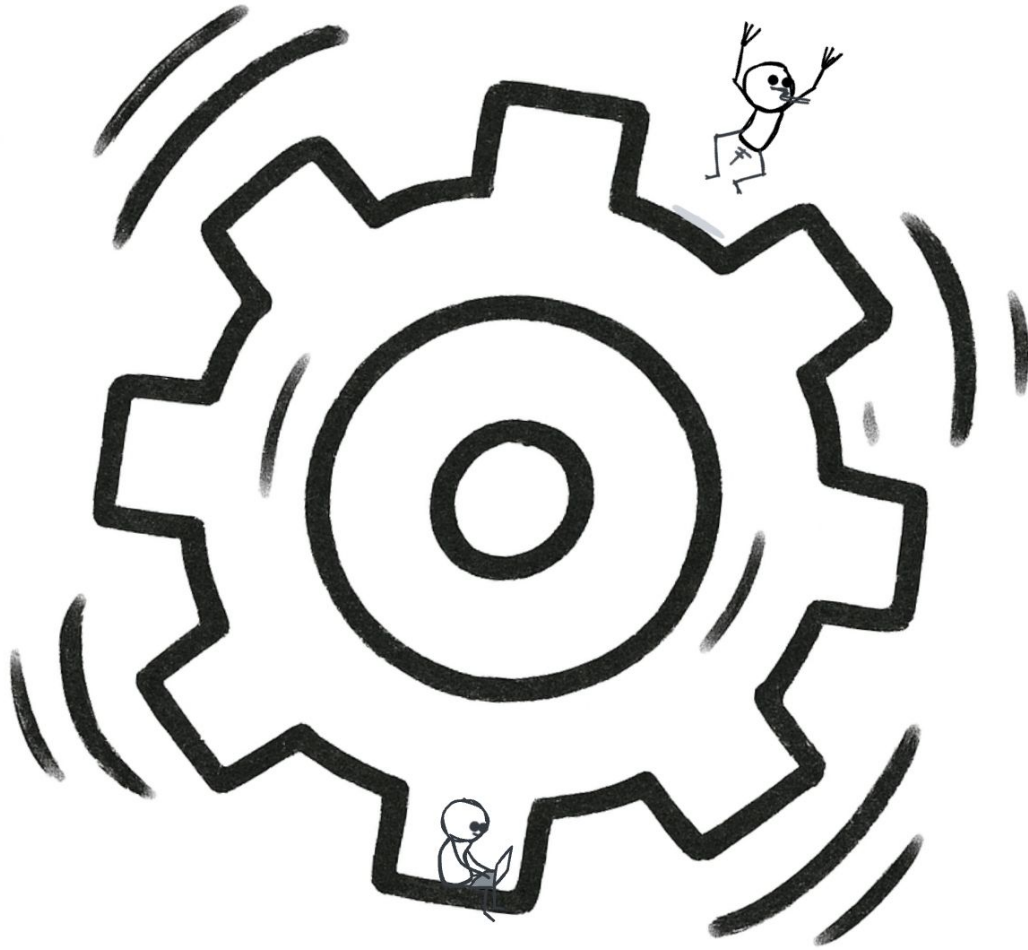
### Incident Report: Spotify Outage on April 16, 2025

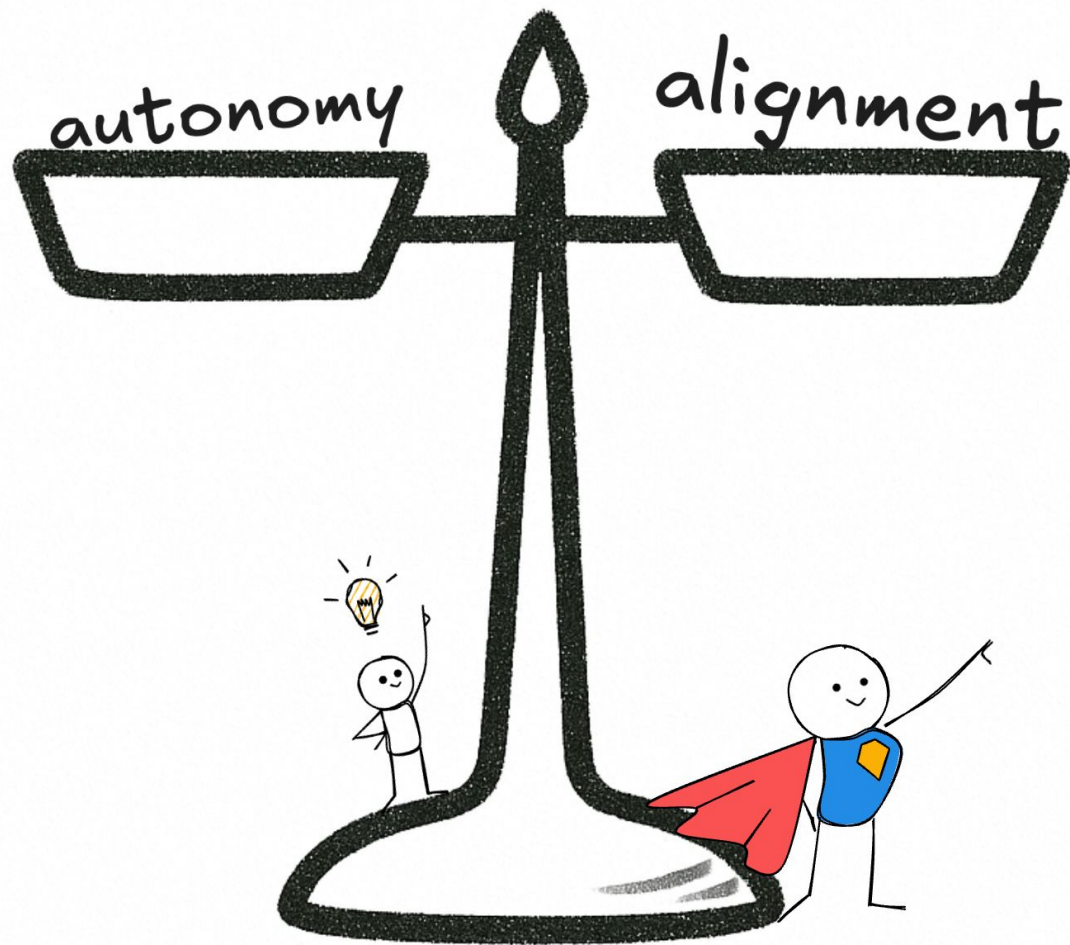
On April 16, Spotify experienced an outage that affected users worldwide. Here is what happened and what we...

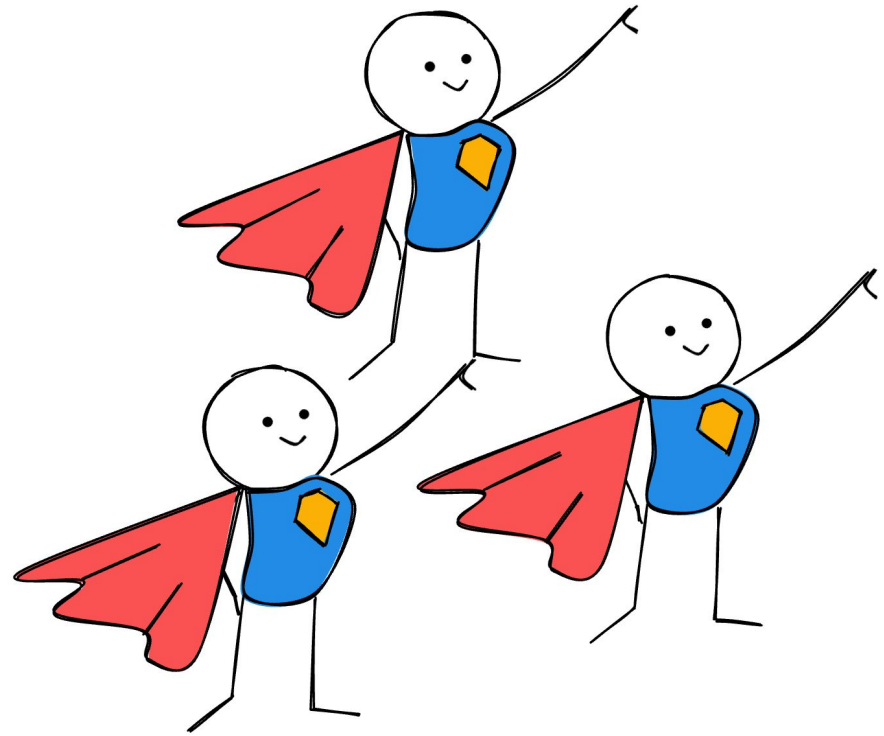


INFRASTRUCTURE








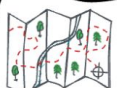


# The Tech Steering Group Runbook



Mission 

Group composition 

Ways of working 







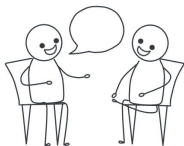
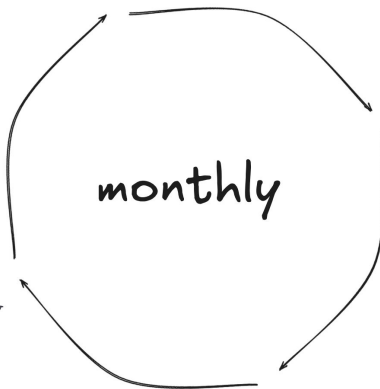
Plan&Align

1x Standup  
1x Deep dive



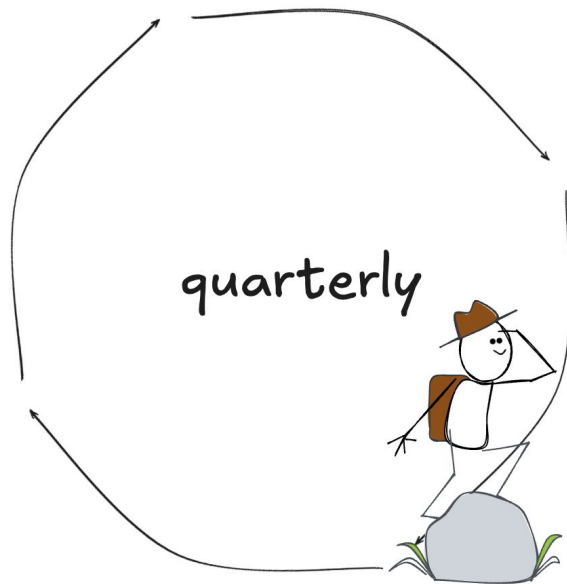
Be transparent & celebrate

Weekly slack-outs  
Open calls



Open Dialogue

Open Tech Forum  
Architecture Reviews  
Workstream proposals



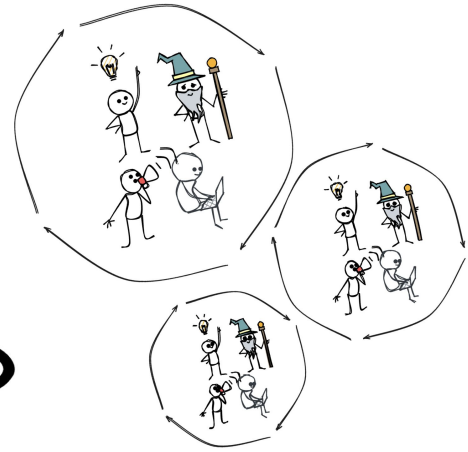
Explore

now + 6/12 months ahead  
risks, opportunities, unknowns  
decision points, collaboration angles



# Workstreams

short  
clear outcome  
with the studio



Build it



Ship it



Tweak it!





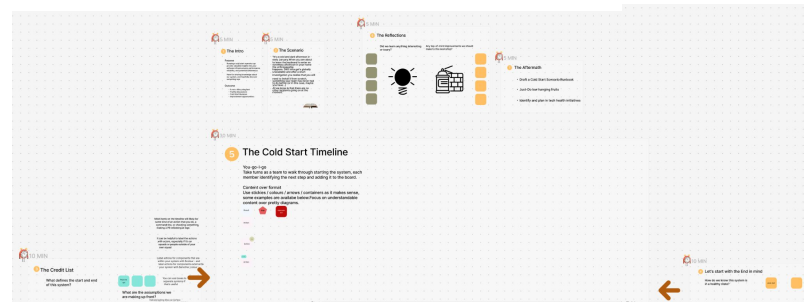
# Cold start scenarios

# TSG Workstreams

Type: Impact the engineering culture

Goal: raise awareness around infrastructure dependencies

## Follow up: Defining Tier 0 systems



# Infra 4 Infra

TSG Workstreams

Type: ADR, guidelines

Defining reliability tier for infrastructure that T1 systems rely on

Systems like the perimeter, workload clusters, service discovery and DNS.

Impact: supporting squads to plan in engineering and reliability efforts



# Architectural alignment for backend monorepo

## TSG Workstreams

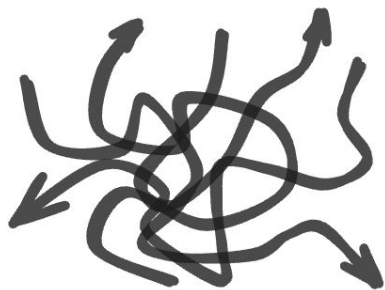
Type: exploratory, ADR

WS1: Evaluating the impact and size of backend monorepo on our studio

WS2: Architectural alignment around decoupling CD from CI

WS3: Architectural alignment around managing side effects of the build







Thank you!

